

Black student enrollment in HBCUs grew by 27 percent over the last ten years, from 177,000 to 224,946 and is still rising.

HBCUs make up only 3 percent of all American institutions of higher education, but graduate 34 percent of all African Americans with bachelor's degrees.

Historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) prepare proportionately more African Americans for professional and technical careers than do mainstream majority institutions.

UNCF's own Xavier University sent more black graduates to medical schools last year than any other U.S. college or university, followed by Howard University, and then Hampton University. Further, of the top five schools in the nation with the most black graduates accepted into medical school in 1993, four were HBCUs.

Between 1981 and 1991, a significant shift away from social sciences occurred in the areas of study chosen by African American students.

(A) Bachelor degrees in engineering jumped by 42 percent;

(B) Bachelor degrees in business increased by 25 percent;

(C) Bachelor degrees in health-related professions rose by 17 percent.

Mr. Chairman, HBCUs have performed a remarkable task, educating over one third of this country's black college graduates, 75 percent of all black Ph.D.s, 46 percent of all black business executives, 50 percent of black engineers, 80 percent of black Federal judges, 85 percent of all black doctors, 50 percent of the Nation's black attorneys, and 75 percent of black military officers.

And Mr. Chairman, our schools have done all this for less cost than majority institutions. HBCUs maintain low tuition in order to provide access to the largely economically disadvantaged student population that they serve. The average tuition and fees at UNCF's 41 private schools in 1992-93, at \$5,008, was less than half the average of private colleges nationally. These colleges are a bargain—low cost and a high success rate.

I believe that these and other statistical data convey a clear and strategic role for HBCUs, and suggest a vital need for increased federal and private investment in and nurturing of these institutions. Everything we know today tells us that America needs more, not fewer persons, trained to undertake the challenges of a changing workplace. Clearly HBCUs provide us with one of the best and lowest cost vehicles for ensuring that young African Americans will be ready to assume roles that they must play if America is to continue to prosper in the future. And I believe that the fiscally responsible thing to do is pay a little now, rather than pay a lot later. Sow the seed now so we can reap a new harvest of prosperity in the 21st century by:

Increasing funding for the title III, part B, historically black college and university program created in 1986. Title III funds are critical in that they provide much needed institutional resources to create and improve academic programs; implement community outreach and pre-college programs; acquire instructional equipment, research instrumentation, library books, periodicals and other learning aids; and improve funds management.

These funds are also provided to selected graduate and professional schools and science and engineering programs which prepare HBCU students for careers in which they are under-represented.

Increasing support for several discretionary programs created in the 1992 reauthorization of the Higher Education Act:

(1) Institute for International Public Policy (title IV, part C, which will train African

Americans, hispanics, and other minorities for careers in international service;

(2) Institutional support for HBCU library and learning resource enhancement (title II part D), which develops and strengthens libraries and library information science programs and provides fellowships to encourage graduate study in that area.

(3) Federal guarantees for the HBCU Capital Financing Program, which will assure access for HBCUs to the private construction financing markets for much needed renovation and building of laboratory and classroom facilities; and

(4) Faculty development fellowships program, which provides assistance to faculty to complete their doctoral degrees and return to our campuses.

Increasing support for the trio programs, which represent the only hope for many students to learn about college through upward bound, talent search and educational opportunity centers; to receive academic reinforcement, counseling and tutoring through student support services; and to gain access to graduate and professional school through the Ronald C. McNair post-baccalaureate achievement program.

As you know, the trio program has a real friend on this committee in Congressman Lou Stokes. Through his leadership, thousands of disadvantaged, low income and first generation students have succeeded as a result of the nurturing and cultivation provided by this program. Current funding levels however, provide supportive educational opportunities to only about ten percent of all eligible students.

And finally, but of equal critical importance, title IV student assistance programs have been the lifeline for most poor students. Ninety-five percent of all UNCF students receive some form of title IV, student assistance—61 percent receive Pell grants, 60 percent receive FFELP loans, 31 percent receive supplemental educational opportunity grants (SEOGs), and 27 percent receive Federal college works study. The Pell Grant program is particularly vital to HBCUs because it's the cornerstone of a poor students' financial aid package and more than 27 percent of HBCU students come from families with household incomes below \$20,000.

It is the combination of these Federal grants, loans and work study aid, coupled with significant private contributions from UNCF and other private gift and scholarship aid that provides opportunities for our students to develop and grow into contributors to our great society.

These modest public and private investments in human capital have resulted in an excellent crop of African American professionals. The college fund, in celebrating its fiftieth anniversary, is extremely proud of this harvest and we believe that our alumni are a testament to the quality education available at our colleges and universities. They are the teachers, lawyers, doctors, business persons, entrepreneurs, elected officials, and law enforcement officers in every neighborhood in America, and they are the famous pioneers such as Leontyne Price, Martin Luther King, Jr. Thurgood Marshall, former Secretary of HHS Louis Sullivan and the current Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary.

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the college fund member schools, I thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony and hope that this committee, in its wise stewardship, will continue to sow seeds in the fertile grounds of historically black colleges and universities.

AN EIGHTH-GRADE PERSPECTIVE
ON PRESIDENTIAL PROBLEM
SOLVING

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 1995

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, "If I were President of the United States, I would * * *" was the title of an essay contest sponsored by the Chicago Sun Times. The eighth grade English class at Churchville Junior High located in Elmhurst, IL, participated in this contest. I would like to share with my colleagues the issues these young people see as important and how they would correct the problems if they were President.

IF I WERE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
I WOULD * * *

(By Aaron Hubalik)

If I were the president of the United States I would help homeless people have job opportunities, clean up crime, and lower taxes.

First, I would give the homeless people a chance to have a job opportunity. I would lower the price of cars and put it towards job opportunities. I would also build amusement parks and take 15 percent of the money earned every month towards more jobs.

Second, I would clean up the crime in our cities. Since gangs are the major problem, I would increase police presence especially in bigger crime areas.

Lastly, I would lower taxes to about 7% so people would have more money to spend for their needs. This would also help the economy grow and create work opportunities.

In conclusion, as president I would give homeless people opportunity, clean up crime, and lower taxes.

(By Jodi Carnevale)

Make all countries come to peace with each other. I would improve every state, and close Abortion clinics.

I would put together a committee who will go to one state and straighten up that state, then that state can help improve the other states. It might take time, but if we all help, it will happen.

While I'm improving states, I would close all the Abortion clinics by destroying the clinics, and building a playground in it's place. It's better to see kids happily playing, that not to see them at all.

I'll have all the Countries sign a treaty, so there will never be another war. So instead of helping just our country, I helped the world.

I could make the World better by straightening up states, closing Abortion clinics, and making peace. This way, we're guaranteed a better future than the one we have in store for us.

(By Amy Byrne)

If I could be president I would make more places for homeless people to go and I would give more money to schools.

Everybody complains about people being dirty or living on the streets and sleeping on benches, so why don't we give these people somewhere to go? I would build large dormitories (large buildings) every couple of blocks for people to sleep, eat and entertain themselves. There would be things for kids to do and we would find jobs for adults or if they needed to learn to read or write we would teach them.

Another thing I would do is give more money to schools. If the schools had more money we could have better uniforms, and more activities, like more dances and a softball team.

If I had a chance to be President of the United States of America I would have places for homeless people and give more money to schools

(By Fred Fang)

As president, I would increase funding to space exploration and conservation programs. I would also cut defense spending to pay for new programs.

First, funding space exploration is crucial. The earth is crowded and resources are depleted. Many possibilities show up when traveling at light speed. Not only could we explore new planets, but also colonize them, and mine their usable resources.

Secondly, I would grant funding to conservation groups like "Green Peace", and make environmental issues more important. Until we find new planets with usable resources, we must conserve. We must conserve so that the earth will stay comfortable.

Finally, I would cut defense spending. Prime Time Live aired a special on government spending. It showed many warehouses with munition surpluses. I propose to sell one-third of surpluses.

In conclusion, my job is to better the world. If these goals are met, my presidential term would be successful.

(By Maja Garmager)

If I were president of the United States I would have all abortion clinics closed, there will be no more homeless people, and nothing at the grocery store would cost more than fifty cents.

First, all abortion clinics will close. If any other doctor is doing abortions they will be arrested and put in jail. If people want to give up the baby, put it up for adoption.

Second, there will be no more homeless people. We will build more apartment buildings, and they will have no rent, so they can live there.

Lastly, at the grocery store nothing will cost more than fifty cents. So that everybody could afford it. If they don't have money they can use food stamps.

In conclusion, all abortion clinics will be closed, there will be no more homeless people, and everything at the grocery store will be fifty cents.

(By Katie Durkowski)

I would help the homeless get jobs, money and housing. I would also extend the school year.

To start off, I would help the homeless get jobs, money, and housing so they can raise a family and their self esteem. They would get free job training and they would be placed in a job that best suits them. They would make enough money to raise their family, keep their house, and have extra spending money.

Secondly, to lengthen the school year. I would take the many unneeded holidays. Many kids don't appreciate them anyway. I would also add every other Saturday. This will improve learning and test scores.

In conclusion, as President of the United States I would help the homeless get jobs, money and housing. I would also extend the school year.

(By Chris Buenz)

As President, I would give money to the poor. I would also help finance schools and give some important accessories to the schools.

Firstly, I would give money to the poor people. The reason's why I would give money to the poor people are it would help clean up our streets and make it look better. Also, they could buy a nice suit and tie which would help them get a job. Then, they could provide for themselves.

Next, I would give money to the public schools. Kids going to school need up to date

equipment like computers, books and other accessories. If kids don't have these they won't learn the right stuff and be behind in technology.

In conclusion, as President I would give money to the poor, help finance schools and give schools nice equipment.

(By Kristi Marotta)

As President I would help the country get on its feet. I would do this by getting people jobs and having stricture crime laws.

To help people get jobs, I would lower the amount of imports from other countries. This would eliminate some of the competition from other countries. This way we would have to make more products at home and need more workers to make them. This is how I would create more jobs.

Next, I would make stricter crime laws. To accomplish this, stricter punishments for serious crimes are needed. I would support the death penalty and caining. Also teenagers should be tried as adults for serious crimes. These are examples of crime laws that I would support.

In conclusion, as President, I would help people get jobs and make stricter crime laws.

(By Jeannie Gleser)

If I were President of the United States, I would develop a better country. The following are things I would do. First, I would ban abortion, then take care of the homeless and hungry. Last, I would destroy all weapons.

First, I would ban abortion. Abortion is killing an unborn baby. Abortion leaves guilt with the mother. It is also inhumane.

Secondly, I would take care of the homeless. I would make more jobs for them, by creating more stores and businesses. I would first hire bosses and managers to employ homeless workers.

Lastly, I would destroy all weapons. I would burn the weapons. Weapons just hurt and kill. They are unnecessary for humans. This would also cut down on crime.

In conclusion, if I became President I would ban abortion, make jobs for all, and destroy all weapons. I would then be famous for my great actions.

(By Samantha Hiza)

If I were President of the United States I would focus on refining welfare.

First, I'd change the requirements to get welfare. You should only be eligible for welfare if you have children. Adults should try to fend for themselves, but we should help the children who have no control over it.

Secondly, people shouldn't get more money for more children. If you go on welfare receiving money for one child, you should continue receiving that rate no matter how many children you have. That way people aren't just having children to get more money.

Lastly, you should only receive welfare for a short while. That way people aren't living off tax money and are motivated to find a job.

In conclusion, my main concern would be to refine welfare by only giving money to people with children, not giving more money for more children, and only giving money for a short while.

(By Jim O'Sullivan)

If I were President, I would give motivation to the citizens and fix the prison problems.

First, to motivate the people of the US to help the government out (and to show we are trying), I would cut my income from \$200,000 to half. This would still allow a good income and also save money. I would also start cutting unneeded spending.

Secondly, I would fix the prison problems. We have people who are in jail, and tax pay-

ers are paying their stay. I would make the prisoners work for their stay. If someone would not want to work, they would have the option of doing the alternate. Which would be to receive a warm jacket and some food and ship them into the middle of nowhere.

In conclusion, if I was President, I would try to motivate the country by cutting government spending, and fix prison problems.

(By Christina Suarez)

If I were the President I would get more jobs and homes for the homeless. Then I would also have shorter times in the day during school.

I would first, try to get jobs for the homeless. I would then start working in stores and other places. I would get the whole town to start making more shelters have more soup kitchens and donate clothes. While a person is trying to get a home they could stay in shelters.

Secondly, I would have shorter times in school. What I mean is have students go to school at 10:00 A.M. and go back home at 3:00 P.M. This reason is so kids can sleep in and have more time in the afternoon.

In conclusion, if I were the President I would get jobs and homes for the homeless. Then I would have shorter times in a school day.

(By Kerry O'Reilly)

If I were president of the United States, I would help homeless people find homes, make school years shorter, and also lower taxes.

First, I'd help the homeless find homes. They'd get their homes free of charge for about a year or until they get a job. Homeless people need shelter because of the dangerous conditions that occur outside our homes. After they're able to support themselves, they'll be treated exactly as every other American homeowner.

Secondly, the school year would be shorter. Kids ages 10-18 have so much pressure during the school year. They deserve a big break!! The year would be from September 1-May 1.

Thirdly, I'd make sure to lower taxes. Americans pay too much. Let's cut down! Especially on the stuff we don't need! This would keep people from going poor.

Again, if I'm president, I'd help homeless find homes, make school years shorter, and lower taxes.

(By Jeffrey Knabe)

If I were president; Firstly, I would pass a law outlawing automatic weapons. Then I would expand the Police to stop the sale of those weapons. Secondly, instead of letting people have welfare money for as long as they like, I would set a certain limit.

Firstly, I would do what I could to get automatic weapons off the streets. Then I would try to expand police to try to get automatic weapons off the streets.

Secondly, I would try to change the welfare policy. To "If you are out of a job you can apply for welfare for a limited time". I think that some, not all, people who are on welfare should try harder to get a job.

In conclusion, if I were president I would try to stop the sale and the illegal trading of automatic weapons. Secondly, I would set a limit on welfare.

(By Justin Scully)

If I were president I would make more jobs, create a better health plan but mainly for senior citizens, raise taxes on rich and a little on the middle class to get us out of debt. Also I would build low cost housing, get more police and bring peace in Bosnia.

I would make more jobs by re-creating the CCC but for all ages. To get people off the streets.

For better health plans I would make sure everybody is covered and get rid of the law suits on doctors.

I would raise taxes mainly on the rich to get out of debt, and build low cost housing.

Lastly, crime I think we should hire more police officers and that would create more jobs.

In conclusion I think I would be a good president because of all the reasons.

(By Daniel Jugle)

If I were the president of the United States I would help the homeless more and I would try harder to reduce crime.

First, I would help the homeless more I would do this by giving them money, making more homeless shelters, and having more food drives.

Second, I would try harder to reduce crime I would do this by providing more police and having a strong Death Penalty.

In Conclusion, helping the homeless more and trying to reduce crime are the two things I would do first if I were president of the United States.

(By Jaffray McCarthy)

I think that government thinking in programs and creating new jobs needs restructuring.

Firstly, I would stop outrageous spending. One type of spending is congressional spending. One example of this is a congressman's frequent travel by transport plane, costing up to \$50,000*. Another type of spending is money for unneeded programs. One example of this was a funded program was to study how long it took ketchup to come out of a bottle*.

Secondly, I would use the money saved from the unneeded programs to create new jobs. One of the jobs I would create is construction crews to build low cost housing for poor people. Another job I would create is a street clean-up crew to clean streets from litter and graffiti.

In conclusion, these are my restructuring ideas. I think any reasonable person would agree with at least one idea.

REDUCE THE CAPITAL GAINS TAX

HON. CHARLIE ROSE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 1995

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, last week I cosigned a letter to the President emphasizing my commitment to a reduction in the capital gains tax. This same letter also raised the specter of an increase in the minimum wage. I do not support an increase in the minimum wage at this time, but do hope the discussion on a reduction of the capital gains tax can be stimulated.

SAMANTHA McELHANEY: AN OUTSTANDING YOUNG STAR

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 1995

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the outstanding talents of Ms. Samantha McElhaney, a resident of Clinton, MD and a recent graduate of Suitland High School in Prince Georges County.

As a student of the prestigious Performing Arts Magnet School Program at Suitland, Samantha studied opera, singing in both French and Italian. Not only is Ms. McElhaney

a gifted singer, but she is also a driven student and athlete. She enjoys studying biology, and has been recognized as a superior shot-putter and discus thrower. Outside of her vocal training, studying, and athletics, Ms. McElhaney has found the time to share her talents with the community by singing in the choir at Ebenezer AME Church in Fort Washington.

I am pleased to submit to my colleagues an article by David Montgomery which appeared in the Washington Post. It is my hope that this article will give further insight into the achievements and future of this talented young woman.

[From the Washington Post, June 1, 1995]

POWERFUL VOICE MAY CARRY 17-YEAR-OLD A LONG WAY

(By David Montgomery)

In the age of rock and rap, fine U.S. opera singers are rare, so it caused a stir when Samantha McElhaney was discovered recently in the practice studios of Suitland High School.

"She has the potential to be one of our great American opera singers," said Elayne Duke, president of the Rosa Ponselle Foundation, an opera talent underwriting group outside Baltimore. "This [talent] maybe will come along once in our lifetime."

"I would call her a *wunderkind*," said Myra Merritt, a Metropolitan Opera soprano who has taught McElhaney. "She has one of those dramatic, heroic, epic, full-throated voices that comes along once in a lifetime."

The object of all this effusion is a studious 17-year-old soprano from southern Prince George's County. She is no pampered diva. In her senior year at Suitland, she drives herself to achieve good marks in biology, her favorite subject. Last year she was one of the top high school shot-putters and discus throwers in the county. She can bench-press 185 pounds.

Most of all, she sings.

"I wake up and get in the shower, I'm singing," she said. "I'm walking around the house, and I'm singing."

At school, in addition to regular voice lessons, she spends her free time in the practice studio. Her teachers say McElhaney's voice is a remarkable gift, but it would have remained the vocal equivalent of an uncut diamond if she had not poured enormous work and study into her singing. Her gift has become her responsibility.

"She's very meticulous about her voice, her instrument," said Ronald Johnson, coordinator of visual and performing arts at Suitland. "She takes a lot of care and pride in her instrument."

McElhaney is one of many vocal talents nurtured at Suitland, which has a performing arts magnet program. The mellifluous singing in French and Italian that the audience hears during senior recitals is the most obvious clue that the rigorous art of opera is being passed down to a new generation.

"It is our opinion here at Suitland that our students must be versatile," Johnson said. "Along with the spirituals [and other musical styles], we want to make sure our students have a very strong background in classical music."

McElhaney's relationship with music goes way back. She could talk before she was a year old, and she started singing soon after. Her nickname, Mandy, bestowed by her dad, comes from the Barry Manilow song of the same name.

The family lives in Clinton. Robin McElhaney, her mother, is executive assistant to the president of a trade association, and Samuel McElhaney, her father, is a technical information specialist for the State De-

partment. McElhaney's sister, Adrienne, 13, has been admitted to Suitland's vocal program; she shows a talent for singing Broadway show tunes.

Growing up, McElhaney sang whenever the opportunity arose, in the middle school chorus, in the choir at Ebenezer AME Church in Fort Washington. Before she got to Suitland, music was just a hobby. Her main goal, even as a 12-year-old, was to make all the right moves that would lead to a good college. She considered music a means to that end. She realized she could use her singing to audition for Suitland's academically challenging magnet program. She sang "Amazing Grace" and passed the audition.

In McElhaney's junior year, her teachers noticed a significant change in her voice. By senior year, there was stunning improvement. Her voice had lost its "breathiness" and acquired a lyric timbre.

It was the voice of a much more seasoned performer than a 17-year old shower singer.

For the first time, McElhaney allowed herself to dream of a career as an opera singer.

This spring, she won the prestigious Rosa Ponselle Gold Medallion, named after one of the first great American divas, who lived in Baltimore.

At her senior recital last month, McElhaney was resplendent in a red dress with a black velvet jacket and a red handkerchief. Before the piano began each piece, she would bow her head, then she would look up and her face would appear transformed, becoming tragic, comic, coy, as befitted each selection.

The French and Italian lyrics soared and swooned and filled the auditorium.

To lend her performance authenticity, she imagined a private meaning for each piece that matched the emotion communicated by the composers. So, when she sang "Pur dicesti, o bocca bella," by Antonio Lotti, a spritely solo about a beloved and beautiful object, she was thinking "about me asking my father to get me a car, o bocca bocca bella!" she said.

She got six standing ovations. When the recital was over, Samuel McElhaney brought up a bouquet of roses for his daughter the diva.

The experts say she has the talent to become one of the great voices of her generation—but they add a big if.

"The next few years will be the most critical part of her life," said Duke, of the Ponselle foundation. "This is where she is going to develop as a singer or lose her voice altogether. That depends on where she will study and with whom she'll study."

Everyone has an opinion about how to manage the rising star's career. Duke thinks McElhaney ought to study with a private coach for two years, spend a year in Italy, make her debut at age 21 and never mind getting a college degree.

McElhaney, for her part, cares too much about college to forgo it. Besides, private opera coaches don't offer scholarships. She is leaning toward accepting a scholarship to New York University, which has a music program. If her opera dreams don't pan out, she'll have a degree to fall back on.

But she has faith in her gift: "I love singing, and I know it can carry me far."